

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over DRUCKENMILLER et al. in view of GUCK. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 11 to further recite the iterative nature of step c) of claim 1 and the monitoring step of claim 11. As is evident from the language of the claims in their current form, the process of checking to determine whether the information provider has transmitted the ident code to the service provider is performed repeatedly, with the monitoring period reset each time, until the monitoring period expires without the service provider having received the ident code from the information provider.

As discussed during the recent personal interview, this feature is notably absent from any of the known prior art, including the references currently of record.

Applicant has separately added new claim 15. New claim 15 is similar to claim 1 prior to the present amendment, but specifically recites that the information item is information posted on an Internet message board. This feature was also discussed during the recent personal interview, and acknowledged

as a feature that is absent from the references currently of record.

In light of the present amendment, applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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